



MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FARGO

January 23, 2022

Senate – Finance and Taxation
Committee Chairman Jordan Kannianen
8011 51st St NW
Stanley, ND 58784-9562
jkannianen@ndlegis.gov

From: Shawn A. Dobberstein, AAE, Executive Director
Municipal Airport Authority of the City of Fargo, North Dakota

Subject: Support for removal of \$400M SIIF bucket in SB 2275

To the Honorable Chairman Kannianen and Committee,

As you are aware, the State of North Dakota has emphasized significant investments into infrastructure by the adoption of Operation Prairie Dog. The \$400 million SIIF bucket has created a significant obstacle for airports, cities and counties that are not part of the oil producing area of North Dakota. It is difficult to obtain funding for our priority infrastructure projects.

The buckets for airports, cities and counties did not receive any funds after the adoption of Operation Prairie Dog in the 2019-2021 biennium. This caused a number of political subdivisions to delay or cancel important infrastructure projects. The SIIF bucket prevented this from happening.

The buckets did fill during the 2021-2023 biennium toward the end of 2022. This resulted in a significant delay for airports, cities and counties to design, bid and build projects. This also resulted in significantly higher construction costs due to the delay.

Airports, cities and counties desire to have reliable state and local funding to accomplish important transportation projects. A reliable funding stream allows for better planning and helps to maximize access to limited federal grant funding sources.

I respectfully request that you support the elimination of the \$400 million SIIF Fund allocation placed ahead of the infrastructure “buckets” and allow these buckets to fill first before the SIIF Fund as originally proposed in “Operation Prairie Dog”.

Sincerely,

Shawn A. Dobberstein, AAE

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Executive Director